



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lava Beds  
National Monument

PO Box 1240  
Tulelake, CA 96134

Larry Whalon  
Acting Superintendent  
530-667-8101  
Larry\_whalon@nps.gov

---

## Lava Beds National Monument News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 7, 2015

### Crystal Ice Cave Film Premiere at Park Event

Tulelake, CA – Lava Beds National Monument is pleased to announce the release of a new short park film. The film focuses specifically on the fragile beauty of Crystal Ice Cave, while also introducing viewers to many other caves and recreational opportunities at Lava Beds.

Crystal Ice Cave contains some of the most spectacular ice formations among Lava Beds' many caves. Because of the sensitive nature of this cave's formations and its cold environment, Crystal Ice Cave is open to park visitors only on small ranger-guided tours during the winter months. This new film gives more visitors the opportunity to explore the incredible resources of Crystal Ice Cave.

The project was made possible by a generous donation from The Fund For People In Parks, which seeks to enhance visitor experiences in western National Parks. Because of the donation, Lava Beds was also able to obtain a matching grant from the National Park Service to design an improved viewing platform in Skull Cave that will better protect and highlight the unique resources in the cave.

The film was produced over several months by Steven M. Bumgardner, the creator of "Yosemite Nature Notes" and many other videos of National Park Service sites. Several other specialists accompanied Mr. Bumgardner on his visits, which have led to some unique images never before captured at Lava Beds.

Superintendent Larry Whalon states, "We have looked forward to this film since the idea was first discussed almost a year ago. Crystal Ice Cave is such a unique cave that we are very excited to have a means of letting more people see the cave. As our virtual visitation grows, this film will be a cornerstone of that experience. We hope it will also encourage more visitors to come experience other fantastic caves, wide open spaces and majestic night sky."

Chief of Visitor Services Patrick Taylor adds, "Both The Fund For People in Parks and Steve Bumgardner were amazing to work with. Creating something the public will enjoy was always a top priority for everyone. Working with partners like them enabled us to quickly produce an excellent product that would have taken years had we tried to do it internally. We are very grateful to both partners for their commitment to public lands and the visitors."

The film will premiere at Lava Beds National Monument's fourth annual Astronomy Night and Star Party event on August 15. For more information on that event, please contact the Lava Beds Visitor Center at (530) 667-8113 or email [labe\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:labe_interpretation@nps.gov).

\* \* \*

*Lava Beds National Monument, established in 1925, is a land of turmoil, both geologic and historic. Over the last half-million years, volcanic eruptions have created a rugged landscape dotted with diverse volcanic features. Lava tube caves, Native American sites, historic battlefields and a high desert wilderness experience await you!*

*For more information about visiting Lava Beds National Monument, call 530-667-8110, email [labe\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:labe_interpretation@nps.gov), or go to [www.nps.gov/labe](http://www.nps.gov/labe). Also, visit the park's Facebook and Twitter pages.*

-NPS-

*The Fund For People In Parks, established in 2014, was organized by park support leaders with extensive experience in a variety of parks, non-profit conservation organizations and park support groups. The Fund provides private funding and professional services to complete inspirational projects that enhance the visitor experience in western National Parks.*

*The Fund receives its non-profit tax-deductible status by operating as a project of Community Initiatives, a 501(c)3 non-profit based in San Francisco that provides administrative services to qualified community organizations. For more information about the Fund, visit <http://www.peopleinparks.org>.*